

In Celebration of the Upcoming Feast of Saint Joseph...

March 4, 1999

Volume 63

Issue 10

The Observer: Saint Joe Edition

Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, Indiana

SJC to Celebrate The Feast of Saint Joseph!

In celebration of the upcoming feast day of Saint Joseph, The Observer staff is dedicating this issue to SJC's patron saint.

Starting at 8:45am on Friday, March 19, 1999, a group from Campus Ministry will be sponsoring the annual "sweet treat table."

At 9:45am, before the treats are all packed away, Fr. Jim Challancin, the college chaplain, will be performing a special blessing at the table.

Following the blessing, there will be a campus-wide prayer, written by John Groppe, at 10:00am. The prayer will be recited at the table, in most 10:00am classes, and read on 90.5 WPUM, the college radio station.

At 11:00am there will be a commemorative mass held in the SJC chapel. Bishop Higi will be the presiding bishop and preacher for this special mass.

Following the mass at 11:00am, lunch will served in the Precious Blood Ministry dining hall.

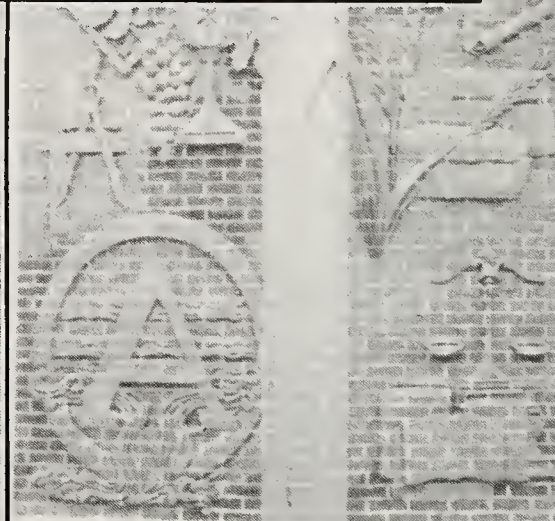
Also be sure to tune into 90.5 WPUM at the top and bottom of every hour to hear your SJC fight song!



Upper Right: Dwenger, currently uninhabited, was named after Bishop Joe Dwenger, who gave the original plot of land that the college is now built on. The building represents the past that still greatly influences SJC. Bishop Joe Dwenger is listed, among other MVP's, on page 3. photo by Charles Martin



Lower Left: This picture of the Core building, taken while it was still under construction, represents the present, with the commitment to the Core Program, and the future of SJC; changing to meet our growing needs. More about the past, present and future on page 3, and page 6. photo provided by Observer archives



Lower Right: The symbols etched in the bricks of the Core building, a design that the faculty helped to create, represent the mission of the college and stands to remind the SJC community of that mission. The mission of the college, plus the past and future according to Skip Shannon, SJC president, can be found on page 3. photo provided by Observer archives

Center: Specially commissioned for Saint Joseph's College, this statue is the only one like it of its kind. It depicts a teenage Jesus being taught and guided by Saint Joseph. More about the statue can be found on page 5. photo by Charles Martin

Mid Right: The Lourdes Grotto, recently having celebrated its 100 year anniversary, remains a symbol of spiritual peace to the SJC community. Its beauty and solitude attract many non-Catholics, increasing spiritual awareness and encouraging an individual approach to religion. More concerning the role of non-Catholics in celebration of Saint Joseph's Day can be found on page 2. photo by Charles Martin

Putting Saint Joseph in Perspective

What's the Big Deal?

—Lisa Phillips—

A lot of people are probably wondering why the Observer staff decided to devote an entire issue to Saint Joseph's Day. In the past, it's been just another feast day and another mass, but there's more to Saint Joseph's Day than that, at least to us.

I'm not Catholic. Why, then, am I allowing, happily, an issue of The Observer dedicated to a saint and his feast day? It's really pretty simple. People don't know the story, and it's an important story to know. People don't know what makes SJC unique. Saint Joseph, and the statue on campus that depicts him, is symbolic of that. It reminds the faculty and the

students what we're here for: guidance. Nobody can tell us which way we, as students, should go.

This school is dedicated to the proposition that if you give students knowledge

and support it with morality and faith, students will become fair-minded, intelligent and open. Saint Joseph, as an educator, reminds us that the teacher's job is not to choose the path, but to show the student what paths there are and to be an constant example of a path well chosen. That's ideally, of course. Being an ide-

alist, it's uplifting to me to have an image of being

it's uplifting to me to have an image of being guided, not forced.

guided, not forced.

Saint Joseph also shows us, that even great men are taught. I think even those who don't believe in Jesus as the son of God would have to agree that Jesus was a great and wise man. Saint Joseph shows us that even great men must be taught, even the child of God. I don't know about

you, but that's encouraging to me. Rome wasn't built in a day. Our minds, this college, the world; they can only be improved by gradual and steady hard work.

What's that got to do with you? Well, like I tell anyone who will listen (and a bunch of people who just smile and nod), each person can affect this campus, and this mission in a positive way, or a negative way. So if you understand the symbolism behind our patron saint, it makes it easier to measure the success of our mission and it serves as a reminder, answering the question "Why are we here?"

Saint Joseph College Students Speak out Concerning Religion

—Chris Gibson—

"I wish that people who claim to be Christians would stop being hypocritical, self-satisfying, lustful, self-serving, animalistic human beings, and truly worship their God," says sophomore David DeLauro. He is one of two Protestants interviewed this week. This week let's remember that Saint Joseph's College is not merely Catholic, but Christian.

"I come from Griffith, Indiana," says DeLauro, "around Merrillville and Gary and all that. It's really one big city called the Region," he laughs.

David says he came to Saint Joseph's, "Because I didn't want to go to a public school." Also he feels it's important to find out how all people, especially other Christians think, and David—a Presbyterian—was inter-

ested in Catholicism. When asked if he found any problems with being a Protestant at a Catholic college, DeLauro replied, "None whatsoever."

I asked David about being a Presbyterian. It turns out that he was not raised in the faith, but chose it for himself, "The word Presbyterian actually means 'followers of the priest', the priest being Jesus. Other denominations say that Presbyterians are well educated on the Scriptures."

"I am a Presbyterian because I like to be knowledgeable." His family is actually no particular denominations, "My mother and sister go to Living Stone Church. My brother's too young to make a decision. My Dad is more fundamentalist. The rest of my family is not a mainstream denomination."

"We used to be Methodist But the church we belonged to wasn't following

Christ. They were gossips, people didn't get along." But after years of seeing the right church, DeLauro reflects, "Really, all churches have that problem."

About reading Scripture, "I read it weekly... I wouldn't call it regular," then he pauses, "I would call it regular, there's just no specific day."

When asked if there was anything in his encounter with Catholicism he didn't like, David said, "I don't believe in the concept of praying to saints, and I have a problem with people's reaction to the Pope. Catholics put him on a pedestal. The Pope's job should be to educate people. This Pope and the ones following him ought to do that."

Natalie Berenda's family attends Trinity United Methodist in Kentland, Indiana. "My Grandpa was Catho-

lic and my Grandma was Methodist. They couldn't decide what church to belong to, so they just didn't go to church at all. Later on my parents joined the Methodists because of friends who introduced them to where they go now."

"I don't frequent church. My parents used to push me and my brothers and sisters. I know they'd still like me to go, but with extracurricular stuff and work... I just haven't made church a priority."

"My parents put a lot more emphasis on doing what you think is right, following your conscience instead of following Christian guidelines. My dad was always big on morals and wanted me and my brothers and sisters to be able to make conscious decisions on my own."

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Length: 350-500 words (We reserve the right to edit for Length)

Submission Guidelines: Sign & include telephone number. Pseudonyms accepted but discouraged.

*The Editorial Board reserves the right not to print letters found to violate applicable policies

SJC MVP's

Saint Joseph College's Most Valuable Players According to Skip Shannon

Bishop Joe Dwenger
who gave the original plot of land that the college was built on

Reverend Augustine Seifert
the first president of the college

Father Raphael Gross
the 13th president, who was responsible for the physical growth (Halleck Center, residence halls, etc.)

Father Banet
William Kramer
John Nichols
Core Education Program, responsible for drastic improvements in the curriculum

Jim Lennane
Million dollar donor
Lennane Computer Center

Peter Shen
Million dollar donor
Shen Auditorium

But most importantly, the **Missionaries of the Precious Blood**, without whom none of this could have been possible.

An Interview with Skip Shannon: The Past and Future of Saint Joseph's College *Marrying Faith and Reason*

— Lisa Phillips —

"We're here to educate... and to transform young people. That's what this college does best," Albert Shannon, president of Saint Joseph's College, explained, "Saint Joseph was picked [as the patron saint of this college]... to honor Bishop Joe Dwenger, who gave this original plot of land to the Missionaries of the Precious Blood a hundred years ago. The other reason St. Joe's name was picked for this institution was it's the symbolic, visible, youthful, member who needs to be educated in the ways of life, as Joseph educated Jesus; Joseph as an educator. All that symbolism comes together in the founding of an institution based on Christian educational principles."

Known to most as simply "Skip," Shannon has a way of drawing people into his enthusiasm. As he settled in to discuss the past issues facing Saint Joseph's College, he became more animated and lively than ever, "I think St. Joseph's, as a college, has always been concerned about maintaining our Catholic identity. That's really one of the things that differentiates us from the competition. That's clearly speaking to our mission as we marry faith and reason. [Also] maintaining the distinctiveness of our curriculum; using the core program as the central feature of what we believe a liberal arts education to be. Marrying faith and reason continues to be a defining characteristic of this institution."

Another problem facing Saint Joseph's College in the past and in the present, according to Skip, is "providing appropriate and adequate resources to the people of the institution so they can carry out both the religious and the academic mission. Boy I'd love to have some more money to carry out the religious and academic mission! Which includes paying faculty, to renovating the chapel, to being able to endow faculty chairs, to providing enough staff support for everything we'd like to do."

"Combining the 5 major char-

acteristics of the institution; the liberal arts nature, the Catholic nature, the service orientation, the career orientation and the athletic orientation [is a constant concern]. The challenge, an issue at St. Joe's, is to bring those five elements together in as a unique a way as any small college can. If I was to give my one minute speech on St. Joe, and all I had was one minute, those five words would be most important for people to remember. We do each of these, I think, relatively well. Keeping them all working together... is something that we need to make sure we do."

"I was the first lay president, all my predecessors were priests."

For the first year I was here, half the people I met called me Father. They thought I was a priest.
-Skip Shannon

There is a transforming in the relationship with the Missionaries [of the Precious Blood] and St. Joe. One-hundred and nine years ago the only people who taught and/or worked here were Missionaries of the Precious Blood. Over the history there have been fewer and fewer and fewer of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood, until today, there are only five working on campus and fifteen living in the community. At one time there were probably over a hundred working, living and teaching in the community. So while their numbers are dwindling, and their role in administration and ownership is dwindling, we still rely on their sponsorship. Their blood is in the bricks around here, because they founded the institution, they administrated, they taught at the institution, they owned the institution for the majority of its history. So whenever you talk about St. Joe's you cannot separate the dedication of hundreds, literally hundreds, of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. I think their influence is going to stay strong."

"First of all on the symbolic level, I'm an active, practicing Catho-

lic. I had to be a Catholic; the board was looking for a Catholic to take this position and role [of president]. On a symbolic level I want to make sure that the College still maintains its identity with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood. For the first year I was here half the people I met called me Father. They thought I was a priest. That took a little while for the community, the alumni, the parents, to realize. So symbolically there was a change, and for me that was fine, because I happen to think that lay people can carry on the religious tradition of an institution with the support of the clerical people with no problem at all."

"I think [that the religious diversity on campus] is one of the strengths of the college. It's important to have a Catholic base. But I think it would be pretty boring if we were all Catholics."

It adds to the beauty of the campus," Concerning the role of non-Catholic faculty and staff, Skip expressed that the emphasis is on, "knowledge of and comfort with a Catholic institution." People working at Saint Joseph's College need not be Catholic, but they should support the mission, "marrying faith and reason."

The main issues facing Saint Joseph's College in the future will have to do with resources, says Skip "people, giving people an opportunity to make SJC a better place," that includes faculty, staff, and students, "and donations. It takes \$20,000 a week in gifts just to keep the doors open."

There are a great many things that need to be done on campus. The residence halls, athletic offices, the library, and the Chapel are all badly in need of maintenance and improvement. These and other tasks will hopefully be taken care of within the next few years, but progress is slow, says Skip and largely dependent on money. Plans for the future include a heightened awareness of our Catholic roots, and of our mission as "a liberal arts, Catholic institution."

Changing With the Times

by Fr. Dominic Gerlach

An institution either adapts to the times or it dies. Saint Joseph's College is no exception. When the Missionaries of the Precious Blood opened the College in September 1891, it was a charitable, monastic school to serve the needs of a largely poor, Catholic, immigrant population. It was a time when priests were still its traditional spiritual and intellectual leaders. So the College was designed in the beginning, both in curriculum and discipline, with priesthood candidates largely in mind. It offered a six year program, four years of high school plus two years of college, that would permit its graduates to transfer to theological seminaries.

In practice, this "junior college" quickly accepted any Catholic young men of proven character who wished to pursue a secular career, and these soon outnumbered the seminarians. However, they had to conform to the strict seminary regimen.

Costs were held to a minimum, since nearly all of the faculty were priests, and all other services were preformed by C.P.P.S. sisters, brothers and seminarians. The College's enrollment topped at around 300 for the next 45 years.

Yet growth did occur. The supporting farmland was expanded, new buildings with modern facilities were added, and academics were reformed to gain outside accreditation. In general, the College seemed to change very little.

However, in 1936, the first great change occurred. Shaken by the Great Depression and bishops' decision to building their own minor seminaries, the Missionaries of the Precious Blood decided to convert the school into a four year senior college and drop the high school department. This entailed a tremendous investment, for residence halls with semi-private rooms were needed, the academic program had to be expanded, the library updated, more faculty with advanced degrees had to be added [still mostly priests], and a true varsity athletic program had to be launched.

This adaptation proved to be a successful one, despite the temporary disruption brought on by World War II. By maintaining a clerical administration and faculty with services still provided by nuns, brothers,

and seminarians, Catholic parents, now more affluent and ambitious, were only too eager to send their boys to a Catholic college that provided both solid academics and moral training at a very reasonable price.

The College's chief problem at the time was to find sufficient housing. During the 1950s, four major new residence halls were built, houses in the vicinity were purchased or leased, but the College still had to turn away many applicants. By 1965, enrollment had reached 1281, the vast majority still being resident students.

In 1965, a new adaptation had to be made. In the spirit of Vatican II, Fr. Charles Banet decided that the College needed to open up more to the world. Thus laymen were added to the Board of Trustees in 1966. Lay people not only outnumbered the clerical faculty by 1965, but they were hired, both Catholic and non-Catholic, at every level of the College's operation.

In 1968 Justin Hall was built to welcome resident women to the campus for the first time. And in 1969, Fr. Banet encouraged the abolition of the traditional liberal arts courses requirements in favor of an integrative Core Program. That same year enrollment reached an all-time high of 1454 students with 82 full-time faculty plus 15 part time ones. Yet costs kept growing, and new devices had to be employed to balance the budget, an ongoing problem.

The year 1993 might be considered as heralding a third major adjustment in the College's history, but that is too recent for a historian to judge. A sparkling new Charles Banet, C.P.P.S. Education Center has been added, which is a brave step forward. But, the present is facing new challenges. Students come with new expectations of what they want in college, not the least of which are more comfortable living quarters. Many heads are at work on how to solve these and other problems. Another issue is how to ensure the College's Catholic identity with only five full-time active priests left on the faculty. The Missionaries indeed have declared that they will continue to "sponsor" the College, but that does not settle the issue.

Yet the fact that Saint Joseph's has in times past, successfully made adaptations in a changing world is a tradition which, it is hoped, will secure a solid future for it into the new millennium.

Groppe Writes Feast Day Prayer

by Bree Ma'Aytech

In honor of St. Joseph's feast day, most people will reflect on him with prayer. Well, John Groppe, a professor in the English department, did things a little bit differently this year. Not only did he meditate on St. Joseph, he wrote a prayer about him.

How did this come about? I sat down with Groppe the other day to talk about just that. He told me that in early February, Brother Tim Hemm came to him with the idea of having Groppe's students from his writing class create a prayer that focused on honoring St. Joseph. However, the writing class is a feature writing class, and prayer writing isn't exactly written into the syllabus, so the professor decided to take a stab at it himself.

When I asked him what the prayer was actually about, Groppe explained to me that there were three different images involved. The first one was the image of St. Joseph as a father to Jesus. He was Jesus' first father, and he showed him the deep intimacy that goes on between a father and a son.

The second image was that of hands, and how the work that they do is a way of serving God. Joseph was a carpenter, and Mary was a homemaker, making them perfect examples of what good can be done through the humble work of human hands. There is also a clever play on words by using the phrase, "the kingdom was hand", indicating that it is the working people that please God.

Finally, the last image is of a Joseph, fleeing to Egypt with Mary in order to protect her and her child from the fear that reigned in their city. He put his own needs aside in order to serve God in the way that he was called.

The intentions of the prayer are uncertain right now. Groppe said that the decision is up to Brother Tim as to what is to become of it. There is a possibility of it being printed up for the students, faculty and staff of SJC to use for private meditation. When asked what he would hope others would get out of it, Groppe replied that he wanted people to see "a new slant on their work....[The prayer] reinforces that there's a spiritual element involved in what everyone does."

Professor John Groppe, of the English department, created a prayer in honor of the Feast of Saint Joseph, to be celebrated on March 19, 1999. The prayer is featured on page 8 of this issue of *The Observer*. Groppe has been a member of the SJC faculty for 37 years.



Photo by Charles Martin

The Core Program: Bridging the Gap

— by Melinda Burdan —

"We're here to educate... and to transform young people. That's what this college does best," commented Albert Shannon.

Transforming young people is quite a task even for an institution of higher learning. Saint Joseph's College has committed itself to this and with the help of the Core program, it has been rather successful.

When I was a freshman, I thought the Core program was a required class that made you read too much and then you had to talk. I am a relatively quiet person and had a serious problem with the talking issue. Then, when I became a sophomore, I realized the true motives of the Core programmers - to make you doubt your values, tear them down, and then re-establish new, adult values. I know this sounds harsh, but, the fact of the matter is, that we are all growing up. As a part of the aging process, we must learn that it is not only time that changes us, but also events. The best way to gain this knowledge is to carefully examine the

events that caused changes in the people that came before us.

Sometimes I find the Core reading overwhelming. There is too much of it to do, and some of it is so boring that after the first two pages, I am already asleep. Then I have to go back and re-read it. (Like reading it once wasn't bad enough!) The

... the true motives of the Core programmers - to make you doubt your values, tear them down and then re-establish new, adult values.

whole point to making us read those old stories and then talk about them is to ensure that we understand the reasoning behind them. This isn't saying that our Core professors have all the answers because af-

ter all they are human. I think that the purpose of the Core faculty is often misunderstood. They are not there to tell us that we are right or wrong in our quest for answers. They are there to guide us down a path, and the Core program enables us to choose that path.

The other part of the Core program is lecture. I know that many of us find Core lectures monotonous. They serve a purpose in our quest for adulthood, however. They provide the background for our readings. In addition to giving us background info, they teach us tolerance. We have all sat through

lectures when we didn't want to be there, but the point is that we were still there. We accept the virtue of tolerance.

Whether you are in Core I or you have moved on to Core XI, chances are that you have taken a very valuable lesson with you. Core was not constructed to make our lives miserable. It was put together to show us that everything we do effects who we were, who we are, and who we will be.

History of the Core Program**

1967

A general education program is studied by Dr. Richard Grabau of Purdue University.

1968

The general education program is revised with the help of students and faculty.

1969

The Core Program becomes mandatory for the Freshman Class of 1969, directed by Father William Kramer. It replaced the required 54 credit hours (aside from your major and minor) with the newly required 45 credit hours.

1974

SJC receives a \$250,000 grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc. to help revise the Core Program.

1976

SJC receives another \$300,000 grant from Lilly Endowment, Inc.

1979

SJC receives a \$40,000 grant to support an institute on how to establish and conduct Core Programs at other colleges.

1989

Board of Trustees accepts the Builders report, which calls for the new Core Building.

1995

The Core Building is completed and open for classes.

The Meaning of the Statue of St. Joseph

— by Zac Pala —

The statue of St. Joseph and a young Jesus, placed near the front of school, has a much deeper meaning than just simply an honorary tribute to SJC's patron saint. The carrara marble statue is located on the lawn north of the chapel.

It was dedicated on April 16, 1991 during the centennial celebration of SJC, as a part of ceremonies conducted by Father Paul White. The dedication followed a commemorative mass for St. Joseph. The statue of "St. Joseph the Educator and Jesus" depicts Jesus in his youth along with his father, Joseph.

The meaning behind the structure is to portray Jesus learning from His Father. This image entails Jesus' education about the trade of carpentry and morality from Joseph. It is from this idea that St. Joseph can be justified as an educator and role model.

This eight foot statue was purposely designed this certain way.

"This would enable the young people attending SJC to better identify with St. Joseph," remarked Father White.

The statue was a \$55,000 present to the college from the Parent's Association. This entire process was directed by Fr. Paul White. Rumor has it

This would enable the young people attending SJC to better identify with St. Joseph.

that Father Banet, the president of the college at the time, posed for the statue, because the sculptor had never seen a statue like what SJC required.

Daprato Rigali, a member of the SJC alumni, was responsible for drawing the initial

sketches of the statue. The revised sketch was then sent to an Italian sculptor, and the finished product arrived at SJC in late 1990.

"I'm So Glad We Had This Time Together..."

Jill Orzechoskie talks about the effort put forth by the SJC Women's Basketball team, and the bond that held them together during the season

—by Jill Orzechoskie—

The lady Puma basketball team boarded the bus on Tuesday afternoon for their last road trip of the season. The rituals for the bus ride remained the same as they had all season: everyone sat in the same seat, a movie was chosen by popular vote, and almost immediately food was passed around. As the bus rolled out of the parking lot, some of the girls' eyes remained fixed on the television while others took out a book and even others studied the backs of their eyelids. This road trip included a new ritual of passing around tissues and throat lozenges; the team was plagued with the same flu bug that has been making its way through campus the past month. Despite the illnesses, the girls remained focused on the task that lay ahead: the Conference Tournament.

Equipped with a fantastic bus driver, the Pumas reached Evansville in approximately four hours (with amazingly only one restroom stop along the way). There was an excitement as the team gathered their bags and entered the hotel that was sponsoring the tournament as well as host-

ing many of the teams.

After everyone was settled, the team headed out for a hearty meal. Laughter was intermingled with the food as the players continued their usual antics. Upon returning to the hotel, the players explored it before heading to bed.

The troops got up early on Wednesday morning, the day of their first game, and headed to the stadium for a light practice. Passes were handed out to each of the players and staff as they were instructed on the importance of security during the tournament. The players entered Roberts Stadium (home of the University of Evansville) through a back entrance and are lead to their locker room. Along the way they took in the sights of the players' lounge and press areas.

After dressing for their practice session, they headed out onto the court to become accustomed to the new floor and atmosphere. The stadium is much larger than ones that most of the girls are used to playing in and the atmosphere seems almost magical. After the shoot-around session, the girls headed back to the hotel and got ready for the pregame meal.

Packing their bags with

their cardinal red uniforms, possibly for the last time, the SJC women's basketball team headed off once again for the stadium.

The lady Pumas (seventh seed of the tournament) played in the second game of the day against Bellarmine College (second seed), but get there in time to watch the first game between Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville (SIUE) and the University of Missouri of St.

"I am so thankful that I was given the opportunity to work with such an amazing...group of people."

Louis (UMSL). The players looked on as the third seeded SIUE is upset by the sixth seed. Excitement was in the air as the Pumas took the court to warm up for their game. The players realized that this game could be their last of the season; everything is on the line. Half of the teams that come to the tournament will end their season on this fateful day.

The loyal Puma fans cheered from the stands and the faithful Puma cheerleaders guided them from the sidelines. Injured team members unable to play also

made the trip down to add their support as the Pumas battled the knights of Bellarmine. The first half of the game was very exciting, as the teams remained equal in scoring for most of the half. The first half ended on an amazing half court shot made by Ana "Speedy" Gallegos to put the Pumas ahead 47-41.

The scoring battle continued until the last seconds of the game. With 1.5 seconds left on the clock, Tamara "Legz" Bumpers tied the game at 86 and time expired without a counterattack from Bellarmine.

The overtime period scoring was unbalanced; Bellarmine adding 15 more points to their score while the St. Joe could only come up with. The Pumas finished the game without their leading scorer Angie "Hup" Hupfer who, uncharacteristically, fouled out of the game.

As the team headed back to the locker room, it was impossible for them to hold back their tears. Once in the locker room, they convened in a circle, hands clasped and heads bowed, as they always did after games. Coach Plett composed himself and led the girls in a very emotional prayer.

Words of wisdom and consolation were added by both coaches, and everyone expressed sentiments of gratitude. Although the tears stopped and the heads were held high as they left the stadium, the heartaches had just begun.

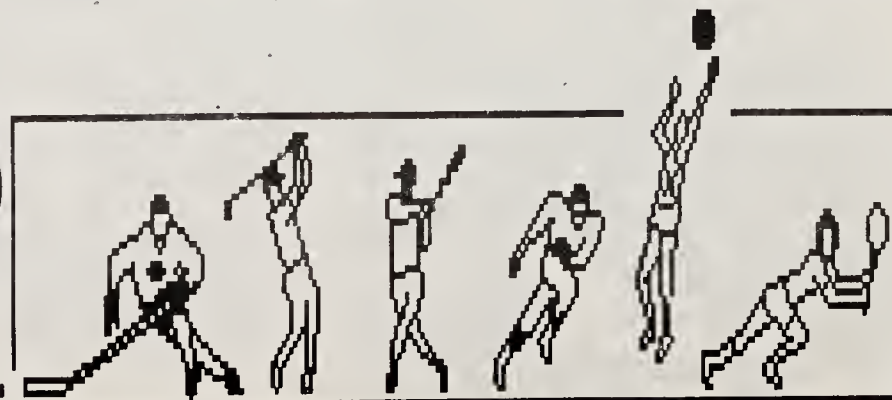
The players stayed for another night and watched the other games of the tournament. The girls continued to have fun by playing jokes on the coaches, swimming together in the hotel and simply enjoying each other's company.

Although the season ended much more prematurely than anyone would have liked, they have every reason to be proud of their accomplishments and the wonderful people that they are. I've had the pleasure of working with this team day in and day out for four months, and it was by far the best four months of my time here at St. Joseph's. I am thankful that I was given the opportunity to work with such an amazing and wonderful group of people. And although I'll always remember the great game of basketball that this team played, I'll remember their hearts much longer.

Jill Orzechoskie is the athletic trainer for SJC's women's basketball team.

Calling All Writers!

Spring is approaching, and with it are the baseball, tennis, and softball seasons. If you are interested in covering these sports for the Observer, please contact Bree Ma'Byteh through email, or try reaching her through extension 8062.



GAMES AHEAD

Friday, March 5

Track/Field at NCAA Division II Indoor Championships at RCA Dome

Saturday, March 6

Track/Field at NCAA Division II Indoor Championships at RCA Dome

Baseball vs: University of Tampa (6pm)

Sunday, March 7

Softball vs: Lake Superior State (10am), vs Bloomsburg (1pm)

Baseball vs: St. Cloud State (3pm), at Barry University (7pm)

Monday, March 8

Softball vs. South Dakota (9am), vs Indianapolis (10:45am)

Baseball vs. Stonehill (3pm)

Wednesday, March 10

Softball vs. Shippensburg (10:45am), vs. Stonehill (2:15pm)

Baseball vs. North Dakota (2pm)

Thursday, March 11

Softball vs: American International (9am), vs. Lock Haven (10:45am)

Baseball vs: St. Anselm (2pm), vs. Mansfield (5pm)

Friday, March 12

Softball vs: Ashland (10am), vs. Southwest State (1:30pm)

Baseball vs: North Dakota State (2pm)

Saturday, March 13

Baseball vs: American International (10am)

**GOOD LUCK
OVER SPRING
BREAK!**

GO PUMAS!

PUMA MEN'S HOOP SQUAD HAS ROLLER COASTER OF A SEASON

—by TJ Szerencse—

To put it simply, the Puma men's hoops season had more ups and downs than a roller coaster. Winning streaks, losing streaks, and stellar individual performances combined to provide a thrilling season of basketball, that saw the squad finish with a 9-17 record overall, and 8-14 in the Great Lakes Valley Conference.

Like the lift hill of a coaster, the season began with high expectations and great anticipation. A strong returning squad coupled with a promising group of rookies had the Saint Joe's mens squad poised to stun the members of the GLVC.

But like every roller coaster, the first drop was

the biggest, and that occurred early in the year. As a penalty for recruiting infractions, the team, regardless of how hard they worked and how many games they won, would not be allowed to participate in this year's GLVC tournament.

After this shattering news, the coaster took a new twist, and the Pumas announced the acquisition of a new head coach, Dave Balza. The season started out on an upswing, with the Pumas going on a three game winning streak, posting early season wins over Goshen College, University of Missouri--St. Louis, and Quincy University.

In early December, the roller coaster took another dive, as the Pumas were dealt a series of five losses at the hands of Ball State, South Carolina State, Kentucky Wesleyan, Kent State and Indiana-Purdue Fort Wayne. Wins over Bellarmine and the Univer-

sity of Wisconsin-Parkside brought the team back to .500 as their record hit 5-5.

Another five game losing streak plunged the record downward as the team lost to Northern Kentucky, University of Indianapolis, Southern Indiana, Southern Illinois--Edwardsville, and again to Kentucky Wesleyan.

It was at this point in the season that the roller coaster ride changed pace. Now, the passengers were experiencing the smaller, but no less thrilling hills that warn of an ending ride. A pattern began to develop that saw the Pumas post one victory to two losses. This pattern continued through the end of the season.

St. Joe players regis-

tered some of the best individual performances in the GLVC. Brandon Yates recorded six double-double games, scoring and rebounding in double digits against Bellarmine, Quincy, UMSL, SIUE, USI, and IPFW. With this stellar performance, Yates ended the season ranked fifth in the conference for double-doubles. Brent Mason joined Yates in the double-double category on the strength of his 14 point, 11 rebound game against UMSL. Yates, Mason and Greg Taylor led the squad in each of the eight statistical categories.

In the end, the squad's conference record was good enough to put the Pumas in sole possession of 8th place, three position higher than the pre-season coaches pole.

BOWLING...NOT JUST A CONTACT SPORT

—by William Shannon—

When you first look at it, it really seems quite simple. Like most sports, the objective is, theoretically, very facile. All you have to do is throw a big, black ball at ten pins that stand at the end of a long wooden platform. Not only that, but you get two chances to do it. Seems simple enough, right? Right?

Wrong. To quote racing legend Tim Flock "If it were that easy, everyone would do it and it wouldn't be a sport." But with practice, anyone can become quite adept at this game of skill, physics and luck.

It is this idea that draws a large number of Saint Joseph's College students to participate in Intramu-

ral Bowling every Tuesday evening at The Strike Zone in Rensselaer. Each week, two teams of "keglers" face off against each other in three tests of their bowling ability. The five-week season proceeds as teams play each other round robin-style. The teams are ranked by virtue of their scores, and prizes are awarded at the end of the season to the top finishers.

This year, the Intramural Bowling league has seen a huge leap in participation, all slots for teams being filled. Most of the teams are comprised simply of groups of friends and comrades. Some come to bowl, attempting to hone their skills at the sport. Others are drawn to the game as



photo by TJ Szerencse

Members of IM Bowling show their pearly whites.

newcomers, wanting to be a part of this sport that is so much a part of the social fabric of this country. Still others are drawn, not so much by the game, but by the chance to fraternize with friends in a different social atmosphere.

There are many stories related to this activity.

Stories of dropped balls, missed spares, incredible strikes and high scores. Triumph and tragedy, victory and defeat, but all done in the spirit of fun and diversion amongst groups of friends. What could be better than that?

Oscar's no Grouch... He's British!

—Don Shanahan—

Hello again everyone for another edition of "At the Movies with Don." Spring Break is upon us and that means the 71st annual Academy Awards are right around the corner on March 21st. I'm here to give you the Oscar lowdown on the nominees, their chances, and some predictions. That, and the fact that I haven't seen a movie in two weeks makes a review a little hard. Anyway, for the big categories there are stars, upstarts, and whole lot of bloody Brits. What? This year it seems the voters have a fetish for British accents as 21 nominations went to *Shakespeare in Love* (13) and *Elizabeth* (7) both stories during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. If it wasn't England, it was the dreaded nightmares of World War II with both *Saving Private Ryan* (11) and *The Thin Red Line* (7) pulling their weight as well. For Best Picture and most of the technical categories it is nominated in, *Saving Private Ryan* is the movie to beat. It has the advantage of popular Hollywood icons like Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg and the voters like to garner box office hits. Its closest and strongest competitor is the whimsical comedy *Shakespeare in Love* about the young Shakespeare having writer's block and a intimate love affair while trying to write "Romeo and Juliet." It leads with 13 nominations and has a legitimate chance to win every one of them with it fancy costumes, characters, production design, and clever story. It will be a slugfest between these two with Pvt. Ryan on top. All that other nominees *Elizabeth* and *The Thin Red Line* can do is hope to split the war movie and Shakespeare vote, but do not count on it. That leaves popular dual Best Foreign Film and Best Picture nominee *Life is*

Beautiful as an unlikely dark horse. For Best Actor, once again the Brits have it. American hero Tom Hanks (*Saving Private Ryan*) and anti-hero Nick Nolte (*Affliction*) have to fend off the critical favorite Brit Ian McKellen

The British have female prizes bagged up, too.

for his portrayal of Frankenstein director James Whale in *Gods and Monsters*. It's between these three, as Roberto Benigni the director-writer-star of *Life is Beautiful* and shocker nominee young Edward Norton are along for the ride. Notably missing for many (but not in my opinion): Golden Globe winner Jim Carrey from *The Truman Show*. The British have female prizes bagged up, too. If it is not someone British, it will be the American playing a Brit. For Best Actress, the enchanting Gwyneth Paltrow, playing Shakespeare's muse in *Shakespeare in Love*, battles her real-life friend Cate Blanchett of *Elizabeth*. Paltrow's castmate in *Love*, Judi Dench, playing an older version of Blanchett's character, has a tough battle of her own with Kathy Bate's political warrior turn in *Primary Colors* for Best Supporting Actress. The toughest category of the night for me to call, and one that is usually in the very beginning of the show, is for Best Supporting Actor. The competition is loaded and experienced with former Oscar winners in Robert Duvall (*A Civil Action*), Billy Bob Thornton (*A Simple Plan*), and Geoffrey Rush (*Shakespeare in Love*). A previous supporting actor nominee in *Apollo 13*, Ed Harris for *The Truman Show* and first time nominee and long-time legend James Coburn for *Af-*

fliction are no slouches to the former champs. All are popular with the voters and very deserving of the award. It is wide open. Like I mentioned and explained before, many of the technical categories should be a split between battle gritty *Saving Private Ryan* and the costume fancy *Shakespeare in Love*. Voters tend to create a Best Picture bandwagon and give them

undeserving technical awards as well as the big ones. This year, though, *Saving Private Ryan* was a technical masterpiece of filmmaking, camera work, sound, and effects that does deserve it lion's share of Oscars. One movie's work I hope stops the juggernaut is the production design and visual effects amazingly created in *What Dreams May Come*. As with last year and *Good Will Hunting*, the writing categories are where most of the surprises come. Popular critic's picks, yet lesser box office hits like *Primary Colors*, *Out of Sight*, and *Bulworth* will duke it out in the screenplay categories. Where are the big hits you ask? As far as popular summer and holiday movies goes, the likes of *Armageddon*, *The Mask of Zorro*, *Patch Adams*, *The Prince of Egypt*, and *A Bug's Life* tend to make it in musical and big theater sound categories. Well, look for a fun night of big name presenters, good performances, fancy fashion, and unusual sightings of Aerosmith in tuxedos. Once again, the Oscars will Sunday, March 21st and hosted by Whoopi Goldberg. I know it sounds boring, but don't worry, after the twelve hour or so long show, the torture will be over and I'll be back next issue of a good old-fashioned, "At the Movies with Don" movie review. See you then!

A Prayer to Saint Joseph For Saint Joseph's Day March 19, 1999

Joseph, our patron and father, whom Jesus called Abba, you were the first to teach Jesus the depth of that word, not by lengthy lessons, but by your loving actions, by your trust in the Father and by your trustworthiness. Strengthen our trust in God's saving presence so that we can be more trustworthy to those who depend on our work and our care. Joseph, when you laid a foundation or trued a door, you taught your apprentice son that unless the builder is the Lord, we build in vain. Keep us mindful of God, the rightful builder, as we work to build and maintain this house named for you. Joseph, when your hands planed a new board and Mary's hands kneaded the evening bread, together you made plain your faith that the kingdom was at hand. Strengthen our faith so that our learning and teaching may serve to show forth God's loving reign. Joseph, when you took care of Mary and her son, whether in flight and fear or in shalom of your home, you showed that you lived under God's loving reign. Strengthen our desire to live by the rule of love as we care for all entrusted to us.

Professor John Groppe

The writers for the stuff page and the entire *Observer* staff would like to wish Rhiannon Davis, stuff editor, a speedy recovery from her recent surgery. Her spirited dedication to the *Observer* makes her an invaluable member of the *Observer* team.